

Harcourt Math

Publisher: Harcourt School Publishers

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Content Level: Math

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Overall Strengths and/or Weaknesses

Disclaimer: Comments on the strengths and/or weaknesses of each book or program were written by members of the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team and reflect their opinions. They do not reflect the opinions of the State Textbook Commission nor the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review team completed each evaluation form during the week of July 8-12, 2002. In order to maintain the integrity of the review team's comments, editing was limited to spelling and punctuation.

CONTENT/PROCESS

Strengths: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons. The cross-curriculum "Link-Ups" include real life illustrations.

Weaknesses: Illustrations/photos show few special needs children and minorities in the primary texts.

ASSESSMENT

Strengths: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

Weaknesses: There were none observed.

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Strengths: The Skills Trace displays the correlation of concepts and skills taught in conjunction with past, present, and future grade levels. Each chapter begins with new vocabulary words to be introduced with examples of each.

Weaknesses: Interventions are available in Spanish, but there was no reference to being available as a text. If Spanish text is available it was not noted in the reviewer's materials. There were no intervention materials available for Kindergarten. The pages in Grades 3-5 appear cluttered with too much information.

STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Strengths: There are extended activities included that address the various Multiple Intelligences.

Weaknesses: There were none observed.

TECHNOLOGY

Strength: The CDs that are available are in dual platform and the website is accessible for teachers, parents, and students.

Weaknesses: The CDs are only offered as options or ancillaries.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Strengths: The Teacher's Edition correlates with the student's text. The materials address various multiple intelligences and learning styles.

Weaknesses: The Intervention Packet is offered as an option but not included in Grades 1-6 and was not available in the Kindergarten level.

If this material is available in digital format, KDE strongly recommends that it be considered if there are students in the school who have a need for this type of material. **Is Available in digital format**

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Recommended by reviewers to State Textbook Commission as a basal textbook or program.

OTHER COMMENTS:

PUBLISHER'S EXPLANATION OF REVIEWERS' COMMENTS

(By action of the State Textbook Commission, publishers are being provided limited space, 150 words, to respond to what they may consider factual errors made by the reviewers in the written evaluation.)

Harcourt Math is available in Spanish. The illustrations and language are rich in diversity throughout the program (for example, racial/ethnic, grade 2, p. 295; grade 3, p. 49). Harcourt Math also contains numerous opportunities for students to read mathematics (for example, Literature Connections in grade 2), write mathematics (for example, Write About It, grade 3), and discuss mathematics (for example, Talk About It, grade 2). The program also provides many opportunities for the integration of themes (for example, grade 1, Chapter 14, animals) and for interdisciplinary instruction (for example, grade 5, social studies).

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICS EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

Content/Process

- 1. Material is comprehensive and includes content emphasized in Kentucky's Learning Goals and Academic Expectations and supported by the Core Content for Assessment, Program of Studies, and relevant National Standards.**

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

- 2. Content appears to be free from factual errors.**

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

- 3. Content makes connections to other content areas across the curriculum.**

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

- 4. Concepts and application of skills to real-life situations are introduced when appropriate.**

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

- 5. Content appears to be free of social, ethnic, racial, religious, gender, and geographic bias.**

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Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

6. Material is flexible and accommodates various learning styles, interest/ability levels, and intelligences, including adaptations and accommodations for students with special needs.

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

7. Reading level is appropriate for interest and ability level of intended student group; level remains consistent throughout.

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

8. Content reflects research-based practices (e.g., hands-on activities, technology, problem-solving situations).

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

9. Concepts are explored in depth and reinforced throughout.

Rating: Strong

Comments: The Kentucky Planning Guide is in the front of the Teacher's Edition and lists the Core Content and applicable lessons.

Assessment

1. Student assessment is aligned with the instructional program. Assessment activities are similar to learning activities.

Rating: Strong

Comments: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

2. Assessment activities examine the extent to which students have internalized and made sense of mathematical concepts and whether they can use mathematics to communicate their ideas.

Rating: Strong

Comments: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

3. Assessment activities provide opportunities for students to demonstrate knowledge and skills in real-life situations and interdisciplinary applications.

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Rating: Strong

Comments: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

4. A variety of assessments (e.g., diagnostic, formative, summative, open response, multiple choice, individual, small group, oral, demonstrations, presentations, self and peer, performance, portfolio prompts) is included.

Rating: Strong

Comments: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

5. Assessment activities provide opportunities for student integration of technology in the assessment process.

Rating: Strong

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Rating: Strong

Comments: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

11. Assessment activities provide opportunities for student integration of technology in the assessment process.

Rating: Strong

Comments: A Kentucky Test Preparation--CATS booklet is available for Grades 1-6. The chapter and unit tests consistently follow the same format as the practice pages.

Organization and Structure

1. Organization is logical and allows for spiraling of content.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

2. Language is clear and concise with correct grammar and sentence structure.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

3. Vocabulary and key terms are clearly defined and easily accessible within each lesson.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

4. Visual illustrations (e.g., graphs, charts, models) and examples are clearly presented and content-related.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

5. Illustrations and language reflect diversity (e.g., racial, ethnic, cultural, age, gender, disabilities).

Rating: Strong

Comments:

6. Legible type, length of lines, spacing, page layout, and width of margins contribute to overall appearance and use.

Rating: Strong

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Comments:

7. Student materials seem durable and conducive to daily student use (e.g., size, weight).

Rating: Strong

Comments:

8. Textbook includes appropriate and sufficient glossary, index, and appendices.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

9. Materials are organized into units of study (or similar structures) with daily lessons that include worthwhile, real-world tasks.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

10. Materials can be easily understood by students and parents.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

Student Experiences

1. The program emphasizes students *doing* mathematics rather than *memorizing* mathematics.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

2. Both group and individual activities are included.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

3. Materials and activities provide authentic applications that allow students to make meaningful connections across the curriculum, to real-world situations, and to interrelated mathematical concepts.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

4. Materials and activities encourage students to explore and investigate mathematical ideas through various problem-solving techniques.

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Rating: Strong

Comments:

5. Materials and activities encourage students to read, write, and discuss mathematics.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

6. Materials and activities ask students to reflect upon, clarify, justify, and generalize their mathematical ideas.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

Technology

1. In order for students to focus on decision-making, reflection, reasoning, and problem solving, instructional activities incorporate the use of technology (e.g. calculators, probes, computers) and include instructions on how to use the technology tools.

Rating: Strong

Comments: The CDs that are available are in dual platform.

2. Various forms of media are included (e.g., CDs, videos, computer software).

Rating: Strong

Comments: The CDs that are available are in dual platform.

3. Student materials are available online.

Rating: Strong

Comments: The CDs that are available are in dual platform.

Resource Materials

1. Teacher materials coordinate easily with student materials (e.g., additional resources included at point of need, student pages shown, manipulatives appropriate for indicated lesson, instructional technology indicated).

Rating: Strong

Comments:

2. Activities are included that adapt to the various learning styles, intelligences, and interest/ability levels.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

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3. Extension activities including adaptations and accommodations for students with special needs.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

4. Resources provide objectives, background information, common student errors, hints, advice for lesson implementation and real-world connections, connections within mathematics, and references (e.g., solutions manuals, study guides).

Rating: Strong

Comments:

5. Suggestions are made for integration of themes and/or interdisciplinary instruction.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

6. Suggestions are made for family and community involvement and school/home communication.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

7. The included media are durable, easy to use, and have technical merit.

Rating: Strong

Comments:

8. Teacher resources are available online.

Rating: Strong

Comments: